



# Volleyball Australia Newsletter – 2006/11

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## Chief Executive Officer's Introduction

It has been a very busy time since the last newsletter with the Australian Volleyball League season finishing, the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour starting and Australian Volleyball Schools Cup again being held in Melbourne.

Internationally, the National Men's team competed in their 3<sup>rd</sup> successive World Championships and despite not winning a match showed that they have the potential to match it with the world's best and that the younger players can excel at the top level of International Volleyball.

The sport was also rocked with the news that the team of Nat Cook and Nicole Sanderson has finished with Nat to partner up with Tamsin Barnett in their quest for 2008 Beijing Gold. Nicole Sanderson and Summer Lochowicz are considering their options for 2008.

With the Beach season in full swing continue to check out the Beach Tour website – [www.beachvolleyballtour.com.au](http://www.beachvolleyballtour.com.au) and AVF website – [www.avf.org.au](http://www.avf.org.au) for the latest on what's happening in Australian volleyball, here and overseas.

**Andrew Scotford**  
Chief Executive Officer

E: [ceo@avf.org.au](mailto:ceo@avf.org.au)

## Sport Development Report

### Scholarship Coach for 2007

The Australian Volleyball Federation has once again been successful in receiving from the Australian Sports Commission a scholarship as part of the National Coaching Scholarship Program (NCSP). 2007 will mark the thirteenth year out of the last 15 that the AVF has been a recipient of a scholarship.

The scholarship coach will be Michael Nelson. Michael is currently employed as the Development Manager with Volleyball SA, but has significant experience as a coach and over the past few years has been heavily involved in highly successful state and national athlete development programs in both disciplines of the sport.

Michael's scholarship will primarily be based in Adelaide at the AIS Beach Volleyball Centre of Excellence and will commence in early January. His mentor will be Steve Tutton, AIS Beach Volleyball Head Coach, but he will also work with all coaches at both of the AVF's AIS programs and the current State programs at the QAS and SASI.

As has been the case in the past the focus of the scholarship will be to aid Michael's development as an elite level coach and prepare him for a position within the underpinning structure of the AVF's High Performance Program from 2008. This will therefore involve working with national program athletes in their daily training environment and accompanying AIS athletes and coaches overseas at times to gain experience of international competition as a coach.

The AVF would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of the ASC in providing this opportunity to Michael and the AVF. Only 16 National Sporting Organisations received scholarships for 2007, making this outcome all the more impressive.

Anyone interested in pursuing the opportunity to receive one of these scholarships in the future is invited to contact Tim Shannahan ([sdm@avf.org.au](mailto:sdm@avf.org.au)) to discuss options.

Previous recipients of NCSP scholarships for Volleyball have been:  
2006 - Stephen Benson  
2005 - Stephen Benson  
2003 - Amanda Fielding  
2002 - Edwina McCarron  
2001 - Keiran Cranley  
2000 - Sue Jenkins  
1999 - Sue Jenkins

1998 - Dan Higgins  
1996 - Alexis Lebedew  
1995 - Paul Smith  
1994 - Mark Lebedew  
1994 - Amanda Coombes  
1993 - Andrew Strugnell

### **Scholarship Officials for 2007**

The Australian Volleyball Federation has once again been successful in receiving from the Australian Sports Commission a scholarship as part of the National Officiating Scholarship Program (NOSP). 2007 will mark the fourth consecutive year, since the inception of the NOSP in 2004, that the AVF has been successful.

Making the outcome even more impressive this time around is that the AVF has been awarded two scholarships. The scholarship officials in 2007 will be Kevin Lentin and Cameron Olson. Both currently hold National AAA Referee accreditations in Beach Volleyball and the focus of their scholarship programs will be the attainment of an International accreditation.

This will mean that their programs will include attending an FIVB International Referee Candidate Course for Beach Volleyball and complete the post-course practical requirements that will need to be completed at FIVB-sanctioned events abroad. They will also both have increased responsibilities nationally through their involvement on the 2007/08 Australian Beach Volleyball Tour.

The appointed mentors for Kevin and Cameron will be International Referees Catriona Tweedie and Stephen Giugni, respectively.

Kevin was a recipient of a scholarship back in 2005 that was used as a stepping stone to this opportunity. His program then included attendance at an Asian Volleyball Confederation Beach Volleyball Tour event in order to gain experience at this level.

Cameron is currently one of nine active International Volleyball referees for the indoor discipline of the sport in Australia. However, the opportunity to become an International Referee for Beach Volleyball reflects a decision by Cameron to pursue different opportunities.

The AVF would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of the ASC in providing this opportunity to both Kevin and Cameron and the AVF. This outcome means that the AVF is certainly one of the more successful National Sporting Organisations with regard to this program in 2007.

Previous recipients of NOCSP scholarships for Volleyball have been:

2006 - Carla Hoorweg (Volleyball)  
2005 - Kevin Lentin (Beach Volleyball)  
2005 - Russell Egan (Volleyball)  
2004 - Phong Nguyen (Volleyball)

### **Paralympic Champions to Visit Australia**

The Chinese Women's Sitting Volleyball team will visit Australia in January for a one week camp with their Australian counterparts. The winners of the gold medal at the 2004 Athens Paralympics, the Chinese team visit is to assist in the development of an Australian women's team.

The camp will take place at the Sydney Academy of Sport in Narabeen, NSW from January 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

It is also likely that the Chinese will play some matches against the Australian Men's team.

Anyone interested in being involved in the camp, especially interested and eligible female players, is invited to contact Tim Shannahan ([sdm@avf.org.au](mailto:sdm@avf.org.au)) for a copy of the player application form.

### **Volleyball for the Deaf in Melbourne**

Once again this year Deaf Volleyball Victoria will be hosting weekly opportunities to the deaf/hearing impaired community to engage in Beach Volleyball games and training.

This opportunity is open to all ages (children included) and commenced on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for this summer. Each Sunday from 1pm to 3pm at South Melbourne Beach on Beaconsfield Parade between Victoria Ave and Kerferd Rd, members of Deaf Volleyball Victoria, many of whom were members of the Australian Deaf Volleyball team that competed at the 2005 Deaflympics, will be in attendance and encourage interested participants to come along for fun, fitness and socialising.

Cost? What cost, it's free!!

The first ever National Deaf Beach Volleyball competition will take place on the Gold Coast in January 2008 at the Australian Deaf Games. Some may be interested in training for that.

Only if it's raining very hard will it be cancelled in any week. For more information, please contact John Eagle: SMS 0429 427 322 or email [john@rosevalet.com.au](mailto:john@rosevalet.com.au).

### Time Out National Referees Newsletter

The latest edition of this quarterly publication is now available. Anyone interested in reading about the latest developments and happenings within refereeing can access the newsletter at: <http://www.avf.org.au/index.php?id=73>

## Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour

### Round 1 - Manly, NSW (Nov 17-19)

#### Results:

#### Manly, NSW - Women

1. Kylie Gerlic/Stacey Kloeden, SASI/Ex-AIS
2. Kerri Pottharst/Angie Akers, NSW/USA
3. Olivia Orchard/Becchara Palmer, SASI
3. Alice Rohkamper/Larraine Busch, NSW/QAS

#### Manly, NSW - Men

1. Jason Lochhead/Kirk Pitman, NZ
2. Andrew Schacht/Josh Slack, SA
3. Victor Anfiloff/Brett Richardson, NSW/WA
3. Shanon Zunker/Steven Hannan, QLD

### Women's Final

The international wildcard pairing of Kerri Pottharst (NSW) and Angie Akers (USA) played solidly right throughout Round 1, progressing to the finals undefeated.

Their opponents Kylie Gerlic (SASI/Ex-AIS) and Stacey Kloeden (SASI/Ex-AIS) survived a scare in their semis, almost losing to the new pairing of Alice Rohkamper (NSW) & Larraine Busch (QAS). However, the country's top seed Gerlic/Kloeden closed out the semis 2-1 over Rohkamper/Busch.

The finals match was supported by a full grandstand and thronging sidewalk, who witnessed Gerlic/Kloeden claim the first set under attack from a powerful serve and attacking game by Akers, well supported by Kerri's deft touches at the net.

Matching drop-shots and playing smarter rather than fiercer volleyball, the match went the third set in which Pottharst/Akers slipped behind, when a line ball on match point sealed the victory after a ruling by the officials in favour of Gerlic/Kloeden.

Gerlic/Kloeden defeated Pottharst/Akers in 3 sets: 2-1 21-17, 19-21, 15-9.

### Men's Final

Jason Lochhead (NZ) and Kirk Pitman (NZ) dominated throughout the match with Pitman's prowess at the net causing havoc for Andrew Schacht (AIS/SASI) and Josh Slack (AIS/SASI). Carrying their World Tour form into Manly this weekend, the New Zealanders used their International Wildcard into Round 1 of the Tour to the greatest advantage.

As Schacht/Slack played on through blustery conditions, the first set was taken from them 21-19, in front a full grandstand on Manly beach.

The second set continued in the Kiwi's favour and, in just over 1 hour, the Round 1 victory was claimed by Lochhead/Pitman after a 21-18 win in the second set.

This match is scheduled to appear on Channel Ten on Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December between 4-5pm.

#### Team Result/Rankings:

#### National Tour - women

##### Team result as at 19 Nov 2006

Rank	Team	State	Points
1	Gerlic-Kloeden	SA	100
2	Pottharst-Akers	NSW/USA	90
3	Orchard-Palmer	SA	80
3	A.Rohkamper-Busch	NSW/QLD	80

#### National Tour - men

##### Team result as at 19 Nov 2006

Rank	Team	State	Points
1	Lochhead-Pitman	NZ	100
2	Schacht-Slack	SA	90
3	Anfiloff-Richardson	NSW/WA	80
3	Zunker-Hannan	QLD	80

For all the latest information keep an eye on the [Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour](http://www.vodafonebeachvolleyballtour.com.au) website.

## **AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball, National Centre of Excellence**

### **Staff Development**

#### **National men's coach, Craig Marshall keeps eye on latest technical and tactical trends within international indoor arena**

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) endorsed a professional development opportunity for National men's coach, Craig Marshall to assist in improving his coaching skills and knowledge by supporting his participation at the men's world championships in Japan.

As we believe the International men's indoor game is a strong trend setter for the indoor & beach volleyball disciplines, exposing our National men's coach to the latest trends with international indoor teams at the highest level at the World Championship in Japan, will improve his knowledge in these the technical and tactical areas of International men's volleyball so he can better service athletes in the program. With the development athlete pathway, it is hoped that it will help attain a higher level of coaching.

Craig was keen to understand & update his knowledge in service – jump serve, skill models and tactics, blocking – technique & tactics, point scoring qualities & errors and the International trends & emphasis on individual & team errors.

Let's hope he comes back with some great ideas and new techniques that he can implement with athletes he is coaching.

### **Beach Volleyball Stars part company**

#### **Cook and Sanderson**

Natalie Cook has ended the partnership with Nicole Sanderson in the "hardest decision of my entire career" after reflecting on two years of injury, rehabilitation and disappointing results on the SWATCH-FIVB World Tour. Cook will now be teaming with Tamsin Barnett the former National Indoor Team player and at 191cm the second tallest player in the world game.

Cook, the Sydney 2000 Olympic gold medalist, said the relentless cycle of injury which has plagued the pair and the "upsizing" of players in the international game was behind her decision to split with Sanderson whom she rates as one of the sport's great athletes. "What ended today was our partnership.

I know our friendship will survive and I'd love to see her on the other side of the net again because she has a lot to give. She is a great player but this is all about size."

Summer Lochowicz, Barnett's current partner, was informed of the decision and like Sanderson is focusing on what their options are in the lead up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, with the qualification process to start in Shanghai, China in early May.

Volleyball Australia Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Scotford, said that whilst the decision has been difficult for all parties the focus has been and will continue to be on working with the athletes to get the best result for Australia at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

### **Seeking Beach Volleyball Athletes for Aussie Gold on English Sands in 2012**

#### **Are you the next Natalie Cook or Kerri Pottharst or know of someone who may be?**

Australia has a proud and successful history at Olympic Beach Volleyball and wish to continue this rich legacy for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Join legends Julien Prosser, Andrew Schacht, Josh Slack, Tamsin Barnett, Summer Lochowicz and Nicole Sanderson in representing Australia at the International Level.

The Australian Volleyball Federation will provide coaching from the best coaches in the world in training and camps with assistance to competition.

We will be establishing a Talent Pool of Targeted Male & Female Athletes who have the Gold Medal — Physical and Mental Skills to succeed at the International Level.

#### **CONTACT:**

#### ***AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball—National Centre of Excellence***

Lyndie Harrison, Sport Coordinator,

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Steve Tutton—National Head Coach

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Ph : (08) 8416 6681 Mobile : 0433 208 880

**2008 Beijing Olympics - 623 Days to go!! (as at 24 November 2006)**



Opening ceremony - 8 August, 2008  
Closing ceremony - 24 August, 2008  
Beach volleyball competition dates – 9 – 20 August, 2008

**Birthdays**

**December**

December 16 – Josh Slack

**Injuries**

No major issues with injuries at this point.

**Next Competition Opportunities:**

**World Tour**

May 1-6 – Shanghai, China – Open – men & women

**National Tour:**

December 15-17 – Port Macquarie, NSW  
January 12-14 – Glenelg, SA  
January 20-21 – St Kilda, VIC  
February 2-4 – Scarborough, WA  
February 16-18 – Surfers Paradise, QLD (Australian Championships)

**Coming Events:**

2007 World Championships – Switzerland [Men & Women] June 19-24 June  
2008 Olympics – Beijing [Men & Women] August 8-24

**2006 FIVB Men’s World Championships in Japan**



Whilst the Aussies return home without a win the team have shown that they have the credentials to be at the top of World Volleyball, but top-level International experience is what is needed to allow Australia to break through to the next level.

Well done to Russ Borgeaud and his team you have much to be proud of!!!

Russell Borgeaud, Head Coach, found plenty of positives from Australia's performance, "As for Australia, we came here with a young team and at times, I think some of the players surprised themselves of their ability to compete. But at the end of the day we are judged by results and unfortunately we go home without a win this time. It's important we train hard so that when we get our next chance, we can come out with better performances."

Match reports and more detailed information on the 2006 World Championships campaign can be found on our website [www.avf.org.au/worldchamps/](http://www.avf.org.au/worldchamps/)

**2006 Vodafone Australian Volleyball Schools Cup**

The 2006 Vodafone Australian Volleyball Schools Cup (AVSC), comprising 379 teams from 104 schools, was held in Melbourne from Sunday December 3 until Friday December 8, 2006.

The Opening Ceremony kicked off proceedings on Sunday December 3 with the Kiwi haka and Louie & the Party Boys keeping the 2000 strong crowd entertained.

Champion School was again Heathfield High School (SA) and the Banner competition was won by Willunga High School (SA).

The full 2006 results are now available on the AVSC website – [www.avf.org.au/avsc](http://www.avf.org.au/avsc).

The 2007 dates are Sun Dec 9 – Fri Dec 14, 2007.

**2006 AVL Finals**

The **2006 Australian Volleyball League** Finals were held on Dec 2 & 3 after the 19 teams in the competition completed their home and away rounds. The Top 4 teams in both men and women's were decided in the closing rounds of the competition. Anxious teams watched match coverage from Rounds 8 and 9 online from across the country, following the fortunes and disappointments of teams as they entered or were removed from the Top 4.

The 2006 Australian Volleyball League finals were held at the Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre 2-3 December with results and match reports available at [www.avf.org.au/avl](http://www.avf.org.au/avl).

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 (Semi Finals)

12.00pm Mens	Melbourne Falcons (1) def Bankstown Sports Cedars (4)
2.00pm Womens	Kumho Sydney Lions (1) def University Blues (4)
5.00pm Mens	AIS (2) def Mt Lofty Rangers (3)
7.00pm Womens	Mt Lofty Rangers (2) def UTS (3)

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 3 (Medal matches)

Men's Bronze – Bankstown Sports Cedars

Women's Bronze - UTS

Men's Gold - AIS

Women's Gold – Mt Lofty Rangers

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## Volleyball on TV

This summer will again see the AVL finals on SBS.

24 December 11am Women's Bronze medal

31 December 11am Men's Bronze medal

14 January 11am Women's Gold medal

21 January 11am Men's Gold medal

The Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour will again be telecast on Network Ten.

24 December 4-5pm Round 1 (Manly)

31 December 4-5pm Round 2  
(Port Macquarie)

21 January 4-5pm Round 3  
(Glenelg)

18 February, 4-5pm Round 4 (St Kilda) -  
(Highlights)

25 February 4-5pm Round 5 (Perth)  
Surfers Paradise  
(Australian Champs)

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